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balance the dignity of the character in the former.

The political relations of America with Britain have been hitherto unnoticed because they principally affect this country. The Embargo may impoverish England, but it must starve Ireland. Our hopes were highly raised a few days ago, from a communication said to be officially delivered by Mr. Foster to the Gentlemen of the Linen trade of Ireland, that the Embargo was removed, thus holding out a flattering prospect of a sufficiency of flax for the employment of our Northern population, for the next year. What then was our disappoint-

ment to find that this was but the first half of a fact, whose occurrence was long since expected, but whose operation could have little effect on our present difficulties, that the Embargo was removed to make room for the non-intercourse act, which equally with the former, prevents our communication with America, during the operation of the Orders in Council, but leaves the trade of their country open to neutrals. The cause of such a mutilated report we know not at present, and must suspend our curiosity, till next month's changes can explain it.

PUBLIC OCCURRENCES.

IRISH.

ULSTER.

PETITION FROM BANBRIDGE, &c.

THE following petition deserves a place in the pages of the Belfast Magazine, as it will shew that public spirit, though extinct among some classes of the community, still prevails among others, who venture to come forward to state their grievances to the legislature in manly terms. The direct object of the petition is happily obtained by the defeat of the plan of allowing distillation from grain in Ireland. But the other subject, the want of the flaxseed, to which they incidentally, though spiritedly alluded, still remains to threaten us with approaching calamity.

"To the Honorable the house of Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled.

The humble petition of the principal inhabitants of the town of Banbridge and the neighbouring parishes of Seapark, Tullylish, Donoughcloney, Aghadarg, and Magharally, in the County of Down,

Sheweth,

That your petitioners have heard with unfeigned concern of the intention expressed by his Majesty's ministers to insert a clause in the corn distillery bill, now before your honorable house, to remove the existing prohibition of the distillation from grain in Ireland, inasmuch as they conceive, that the said intended clause, if enacted, must be highly injurious in its effects, to

the interests of this part of the united Kingdom.

Your petitioners beg leave to state that the produce of the last grain crop in Ireland, has been by no means so abundant, as has been represented, that the prices of provisions are higher now, than they were when the prohibition took place, nay, higher than it is recollected, they have ever been, at this season of the year in Ireland, with the single exception of the distressful spring of 1801. That these prices have lately increased from the supposed probability, that the prohibition may be discontinued, and moreover that the great article of food in Ireland, potatoes, are now selling in the markets far beyond the average rate of common years.

Considering, too, that all the articles of prime necessity, in our manufactures and trades, are dear and scarce, above all, that the supply of flax for the ensuing year is such as to excite the strongest apprehension, that a total stagnation may take place in our staple manufacture, by which hundreds of thousands of our population are enabled to procure their daily food, which they can with difficulty obtain for their families, at the present rates of the markets, your petitioners are induced most earnestly to implore that your honorable house may pause, and weighing the calamitous results likely to arise from its enactment, prevent the introduction of the clause, removing the prohibition of the distillation from grain in Ireland, into the

aforesaid bill. If the existing laws against illicit distillation have been hitherto found insufficient to check that baneful evil, your petitioners have every confidence, that in the wisdom of parliament, means can be devised of effectually crushing a practice, which surely ought not to be beyond the control of a powerful, vigilant and energetic government."

On Wednesday last, a ploughing match was decided in a field of Mr. Samuel Moorhead's, at Ballynahinch, for a wager on who should make the best ploughing. The parties were, Mr. John Graham, Mr. John McClelland, Mr. Samuel Moorhead, and Mr. Richard McClelland, all respectable farmers of that neighbourhood. Each appeared on the ground with their horses, plough, and tacklings, in excellent order; and in two hours time ploughed half a rood of lea land that had been previously laid off for each of them, in so masterly a manner as to give entire satisfaction to a large concourse of neighbouring farmers, who had assembled to witness the laudable contest.

The prize was adjudged to Mr. John Graham, for the superior neatness of his furrows; and the other candidates had also the merit of doing theirs so well, as to make it difficult for judges to determine.

As such trials of skill would be an excellent mode of disseminating the knowledge acquired by proficient in this important branch; it would be highly useful to this great agricultural country, should they become more frequent.

On Monday three women, of the names of Cunningham, Charters, and Farrel, went into a shop in High-street, soliciting money to bury Cunningham's sister, who they said had died in the afternoon. A gentleman who belongs to the Strangers' Friend Society, being then in the shop, insisted to go with them to where the corpse lay, and which they said was in the Plantation. When near that place, however, they confessed they had merely made up the story to raise some money, and refused to go farther with him. Such impostors deserve exemplary punishment.

ANTRIM....*Married*....Mr J. Brown, of Ballyearl, to Miss Hughes of Jordantown. The Rev. C. H. Crookshank, to Miss Harriet Jones, of Moneyglass. Mr. F. Lepper, to Miss Bryson, both of Belfast. Mr. J. Gordon, of Belfast, to Miss Holmes, daughter of the Rev. W. Holmes, of Island Magee.

Died....At Belfast, Mr. W. Gordon. Aged 16, Mr. J. Kelsu. Suddenly in the

23d, year of her age, Miss M. Donaldson. The Rev. S. Patton, late Minister of the dissenting congregation of Moneyrea. In Belfast, on the 7th ult. F. M'Evoy, printer.

ARMAGH....*Married*....Mr. J. Campbell, of Keady, to Miss Shields, of Caryclean.

TYRONE....*Married*....A. Austin, esq. of Miltown, to Miss E. Pemberton of Dublin.

DONEGALL....*Married*....E. Harrison, esq. of Buncrana, to Miss I. Darby.

Died....At Dundrum, Miss E. Blackwell, of Belfast.

LEINSTER.

The following melancholy accident occurred a few days since in the vicinity of Camolin, in the county of Wexford;—Edward Flinn, stucco-man, having left his lodgings early on Wednesday morning, in order to finish some work for a gentleman in the neighbourhood, was found apparently dead on the side of the road about 11 o'clock same day. The body was buried the following evening.—The circumstances of sudden death, and hasty interment, having a suspicious appearance, a magistrate ordered the corpse to be taken up; when it was found he had turned in the coffin and bled profusely out of the mouth and nose. From the above circumstances it appears the man had been buried alive.

MEATH....*Married*....R. M'Guire, esq. of New Grange, to Miss R. Chester of Drogheda.

DUBLIN....*Married*....In Eccles-street, Mr. J. Jackson, to Miss Sarah M'Creight, Walkenshaw's-grove, Co. Armagh.

Died....Edward Lysaght, esq. barrister at law; a gentleman well known for his convivial talents and literary acquirements: a short time before his death he was appointed one of the Justices of Police for the city of Dublin, with a salary of 500*l.* per annum. He did not hold this situation long enough to ensure a provision for his widow and family; a subscription has however been generously opened by the gentlemen of the law, and upwards of 1000*l.* has been already received for this benevolent purpose. Mr. Thomas M'Donnell, proprietor of the Hibernian Journal. On Saturday night last, at his residence at Hampton, in the County of Dublin, Alexander Hamilton, esq. aged 44, eldest son of the late Hon. Baron Hamilton. By his decease the office of High-Sheriff of the County of Dublin has become vacant. Alas! how uncertain is this life! It is scarcely a month since Mr. Hamilton was sworn into the office of sheriff, in the prime of life? His death was occasioned by a fever, taken immediately afterwards, which had such an effect on his nerves and frame as to

precipitate him into an early grave. This gentleman was eminently useful by following the example of his ever-to-be-lamented father, by promoting the internal trade and commerce of his country.—The town of Balbriggan, which was founded by the late Baron Hamilton, furnishes, in its prosperity, an ample proof of the beneficial results of industry, the seeds of which were originally sown by him in the establishment of the cotton manufacture, and have since spread themselves to the amelioration and happiness of thousands. This branch of trade certainly made more rapid advances in this country under the protection and influence of the late Baron Hamilton, than any other individual before or since his time. Mr. Hamilton inherited many other of the good dispositions and amiable qualities of his father. As a representative in the House of Commons, in which he sat from the age of 22, until the dissolution of the Irish Parliament, he was of unshaken integrity, and on the last great question which agitated that House, his patriotism shone conspicuous, for differing in sentiments upon that occasion with his Noble patron, he resigned the representation of Belfast, and with it his lucrative place of Cursitor of the Court of Chancery.

MUNSTER.

A most atrocious and inhuman murder was committed on Monday night the 13th ult. on the Dublin road, about one mile from Kilworth, at a place named Barnvaber, by a man of the name of James Hickey, farmer, who had married a young woman about a year ago, the daughter of an honest, industrious man. On the above Monday Hickey left his work to go drink at a public-house near him, kept by one Doran. He did not return home until a late hour at night, and when he did, he desired his unfortunate wife to get up, and to let him in, and get him his supper. His younger brother, who lay in the house, desired her not to stir, but she dreading the anger of a husband who had repeatedly used her ill, got up to let him in, and was about getting his supper, when the villain said he had lost his great coat, and desired his wife to put on her shoes, that she may cwith him in search of it, with which she eluctantly complied. He first took her to a field, on pretence of looking for the coat, when the innocent woman thought she observed a light like fire, and expressed her apprehensions, but he desired her not to be frightened, it was nothing, though the villain had at that time missed fire at her! He then took her on the road in search of the coat, and proceeded some distance until they came to a deep pool of water, the villain pointed to it, saying

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it was there he lost it, and dreadful to relate, as the poor woman stooped to look for the coat, he fired a shot at her, and lodged fourteen or fifteen slugs in her arm and side; the wretched woman languished until the following Thursday, and then expired, and to add to the enormity of this unnatural murder, the unfortunate woman was six months pregnant. A Coroner's inquest was held on the body, by Richard Foot, esq. and a verdict was found of wilful murder against James Hickey. The inhuman monster has absconded.

TIPPERARY.....*Married*....Lord Viscount Bernard, son to the Earl of Bandon, to Miss Broddrick, daughter to the Archbishop of Cashel.

CONNAUGHT.

A few days ago, Mr. Allen, of Moneyvay, county of Galway, walked into the park of Mr. French about some business with some of the labourers. The gate keeper, one Holmes, desired him not to go that way; Mr. Allen said he would, and so walked off. Holmes said he would shoot him if he did not turn back, and then ran for his gun in a great fury, with which he followed Mr. Allen, but before he got within shot of him, he was struck dead himself, and buried a day or two after!

BRITISH.

At twelve o'clock on Friday night, a most tremendous fire broke out in the south-west angle of the great quadrangle of Christ-Church College, Oxford, which in a short time consumed the whole of Professor White's apartments, and some adjacent rooms. The fire originated in the rooms of one of the members who was then absent. Dr. White was in such a paralytic state that he was obliged to be carried out of the house; he has lost all his valuable library and original manuscripts. The great hall was with difficulty saved. The flames raged with such vehemence till six o'clock the next morning, that it was with great difficulty the engines could prevent it from spreading. The great reservoir, in the middle of the quadrangle, was soon emptied, and it was some time before a supply of water could be procured. The Oxford volunteers also attended to protect the property. The amount of the property consumed is not yet ascertained: one gentleman lost furniture to the amount of 500*l*. No particular accident has happened, if we except one gentleman, who dislocated his knee in attempting to force a door open. The ruins were in smoke all Saturday, and in the night some flames were again discovered, but the men on guard soon quenched them with one of the engines.

A monstrous sea snake similar to the one lately cast ashore in Orkney, has just g

been stranded on the coast of England, and persons properly qualified have been sent from London to examine and preserve this wonderful creature.

*Died....*The Earl of Orford: he is succeeded by his son Lord Walpole, now Earl of Orford. In London, General Mordaunt, aged 79. The Right Hon. the Dowager Lady Ashburton. Mr. Richard Sterling, Nursery-man, after a long and painful illness, occasioned by smoking a pipe, which caused a cancer in his lip, by not waxing the end before he put it into his mouth.

JERSEY.

St. HILIER, February 27 :—"Two seamen, J. Hubert and J. Bertant, natives of the island of Jersey, lately effected their escape from the horrors of a French prison. They had been confined, with several of their countrymen, for many months at Valenciennes. They eluded the vigilance of their guards, with two of their companions, who, from their imprudence in the neighbourhood of Caen, were apprehended, and sent back to their former habitation. Our two adventurers were near six weeks in travelling through the country between Valenciennes and Concale Bay. The greatest part of the journey was performed in the night-time, and in most inclement weather. Having gained the coast, they, after a long and cautious search, discovered a small boat, anchored about a mile from the shore—they waited till the tide had partly ebbed, when, fearful of being detected, if they waited till it was low-water, one of them swam off to the boat, which was without oars or sails; he consequently returned to his ship-mate disheartened and despairing; fortunately

they soon afterwards found the oars, which had been carried by the careful fisherman close to his hut, and, though nearly exhausted with famine and fatigue, they arrived in St. Catherine's Bay the evening of the second day after they embarked, having been three days and nights without any kind of sustenance. Their limbs were much swollen, and in some places ulcerated, in consequence of the hardships they had undergone.—They report that, understanding and speaking the language of the country, they in some places, when obliged to beg for food, represented themselves as conscripts who had deserted, and frequently were obliged to confess their real situation.—They assert that they were uniformly relieved to the full extent of the means of the charitable peasants to whom they applied, were often permitted to secret themselves in their cottages in the day-time, and were directed by their generous entertainers, in the safest routes, and where they might successfully apply for assistance. The lower orders in France are represented as being in the most wretched and oppressed condition, and unanimously averse to a continuation of the war; and it is certain that however much Bonaparte may be idolized by the army, he is detested by the people. When an English prisoner of war is detected in attempting to evade the miseries of a French prison, he is confined, sometimes for three or six months, at the pleasure of his gaoler, in a dark and damp dungeon, without bedding of any description, and his existence barely prolonged by a scanty allowance of bad black bread and water, nor is he permitted to have communication with any one but his keepers.

AGRICULTURAL REPORT.

From February 20, till March 20, 1809.

SINCE last Report the weather has been extremely favourable for the business of the farm, and much work has been done by the plough, and in some districts a considerable progress made in sowing oats.

The wheat crops continue to look well, and a considerable degree of vegetation appears on the grass grounds, which if not checked by frosts, seem to promise an early supply of grass for the stock of young cattle.

The prices of grain and oatmeal have fallen a good deal since last Report. Potatoes are plenty and cheaper in the markets, the fears of scarcity have now subsided, and we trust it will be found that the crops of last year were not so defective as was apprehended.

COMMERCIAL REPORT.

THERE is cause to congratulate the Public, that the fears of the distillation being permitted from grain in Ireland, as expressed in the last Month's Report, have not been realized. This *job*, for such there is good reason to believe it was, has been rendered abortive. The voice of the People against this measure has been well and publicly expressed. The reader is referred to page 231, for a petition on this subject from the inhabitants of Banbridge and the adjoining parishes, in which the ill